

is a Substitute Appeal Brief which in which the various defects alleged in the Office Action have been remedied.

According to the Office Action, the Appeal Brief did not contain a concise explanation of the invention defined in the claims, referring specifically to the page and line numbers and to the drawings by reference numbers as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.192(c)(5). Further, the Office Action states that "[a] 'unique identifier' is not present in the claims on Appeal." Section I(E) of the Substitute Appeal Brief is believed to now comply with 37 C.F.R. § 192 with respect to these alleged defects. In particular, Section I(E) of the Substitute Appeal Brief includes a discussion of the specific elements in each independent claim that are shown in Section I(H) to be lacking from the prior art upon which the § 102 rejections are based.

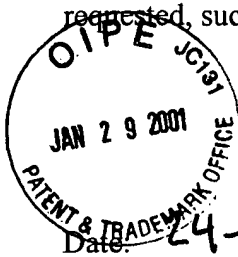
The Office Action further alleges that the Appeal Brief did not contain a statement of the status of all claims, pending or canceled, and did not identify the claims appealed as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.192(c)(3). Section I(C) of the Substitute Appeal Brief is believed to now comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.192(c)(3).

Finally, the Office Action alleges that the Appeal Brief did not include a statement that the grouping of claims 1-3, 5-8, 9-13, and 15-24 does or does not stand or fall together or present reasons in support thereof as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.192(c)(5) and (c)(7). Section I(G) of the Substitute Appeal Brief is believed to now comply with these requirements.

* * * * *

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, consideration of the Substitute Appeal Brief is respectfully requested, such that the appeal proceedings may commence.



Date: 24-JAN-2001

Respectfully submitted,

Hugh R. Kress

Hugh R. Kress
Reg. No. 36,574
Winstead Sechrest & Minick P.C.
2400 Bank One Center
910 Travis Street
Houston, Texas 77002
(713) 650-2714 (voice)
(713) 650-2400 (fax)
ATTORNEY FOR ASSIGNEE

RECEIVED
JAN 31 2001
Technology Center 2100